

## NEWS RELEASE



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### **Provincial government commits more than \$16M to joint Laurier–YMCA facility in Brantford**

BRANTFORD — Wilfrid Laurier University and the YMCA of Hamilton/Burlington/Brantford are one step closer to a new community athletics and recreation centre after receiving more than \$16 million in funding from the Ontario Ministry of Infrastructure. The Honourable Bob Chiarelli and Brant MPP Dave Levac made the announcement today at the Brantford Family YMCA.

The funding is a significant contribution towards the development of a 115,000 sq. ft. athletics and recreational centre that would be used by students and the broader community. This unique community partnership involves the YMCA, Laurier Brantford, Six Nations, Nipissing University, Mohawk College and the City of Brantford.

“The YMCA is committed to meeting the health and wellness needs of Brantford, Brant County and Six Nations residents through the development of this athletics and recreation centre in partnership with Laurier Brantford, the city and Six Nations,” said Jim Commerford, president and CEO of the YMCA of Hamilton/Burlington/Brantford. “This project is an important part of the downtown core’s continued economic growth, and we are very grateful to the Province of Ontario for their support of this exciting and innovative community partnership.”

Since opening a campus in downtown Brantford in 1999, Wilfrid Laurier University has worked in partnership with the community to serve the needs of students and the broader population. A shared athletics and recreational centre is in keeping with this approach and will benefit the growing number of students who are choosing to pursue their education at Laurier Brantford.

“We thank the provincial government for its support and we appreciate the ongoing assistance of Brant MPP Dave Levac in this important community project,” said Max Blouw, president and vice-chancellor of Wilfrid Laurier University. “A shared athletics and recreational centre is a significant milestone in the positive transformation of downtown Brantford and for the continued development of Laurier Brantford.”

For detailed information about the proposed Laurier Brantford/YMCA Athletics Complex, including artist’s renderings, please visit the project website: [www.wlu.ca/homepage.php?grp\\_id=12742](http://www.wlu.ca/homepage.php?grp_id=12742). The website will be updated regularly as new information becomes available.

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